

any services there in July 1990. In addition, British Airways controls 37 percent of the slots at Heathrow. It clearly is in a position to help resolve the access to Heathrow challenge. In short, British Airways controls its own destiny if it truly wants DOT approval for its proposed new alliance.

Mr. President, let me conclude by saying a truly historic opportunity may be at hand to finally force the British to join us on the field of free and fair air service competition. The Administration must stand firm and make clear to the British Government that nothing short of an open skies agreement is the price tag for any regulatory relief British Airways might seek in connection with its possible new alliance. A fully liberalized United States/United Kingdom air service agreement is critical to our economy, United States airlines and consumers and I fully expect we will not squander this opportunity.

#### THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, the impression will not go away: The \$5 trillion Federal debt stands today as an increasingly grotesque parallel to the energizer bunny in the T.V. commercial that keeps moving and moving and moving—precisely in the same manner and to the same extent that the President is sitting on his hands while the Federal debt keeps going up and up and up into the stratosphere.

Same old story. Some politicians talk a good game ("talk" is the operative word here) about cutting Federal spending and thereby bringing the Federal debt under control. (But watch what they do when efforts are made to balance the Federal budget.)

Mr. President, as of the close of business yesterday, Monday, May 20, the Federal debt stood at exactly \$5,114,232,705,195.00 (which amounts to \$19,306.97 per man, woman, child on a per capita basis).

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-2693. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulations Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a final rule concerning the amending of the educational assistance regulations (RIN 2900-AH60), received on May 16, 1996; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-2694. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulations Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a final rule concerning the correction of a repayment formula for health care professionals who fail to comply with service obligation under the VA Health Professional Scholarship Program (RIN 2900-AH99), received on May 16, 1996; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-2695. A communication from the Director of the Regulations Policy Management Staff, Office of Policy, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a final rule relative to amending the biologics regulations of the Food and Drug Administration to eliminate the requirement for an establishment license application for certain biotechnology and synthetic biological products (RIN 0910-AA71), received on May 16, 1996; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-2696. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, the report of proposals for the reauthorization of the National Institutes of Health, received on May 16, 1996; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-2697. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Employment Standards, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a final rule concerning the amendments of the regulations under the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act to implement statutory changes to MSPA concerning the relationship between workers' compensation benefits and the benefits available under the MSPA (RIN 1215-AA93), received on May 16, 1996; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-2698. A communication from the Managing Director of the Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a final rule concerning the implementation of Cable Act reform provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, received on May 13, 1996; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2699. A communication from the Managing Director of the Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a final rule concerning the Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations, Cornell, Wisconsin, received on May 13, 1996; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2700. A communication from the Managing Director of the Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a final rule concerning the Citizens Utilities Company Permanent Cost Allocation Manual for the Separation of Regulated and Nonregulated Costs, received on May 13, 1996; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2701. A communication from the Managing Director of the Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a final rule concerning the implementation of Section 273 of the Communications Act of 1934, as Amended by the Telecommunications Act of 1996—Dispute Resolution Regarding Equipment Standards, received on May 13, 1996; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2702. A communication from the Managing Director of the Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a final rule concerning the Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations, Coolidge and Gilbert, Arizona, received on May 13, 1996; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2703. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a final rule concerning the prohibition against certain flights within the territory and airspace of Afghanistan (RIN 2120-AG10), received on May 13, 1996; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

#### EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. HATCH, from the Committee on the Judiciary on May 20, 1996:

William A. Fletcher, of California, to be U.S. circuit judge for the ninth circuit.

(The above nomination was reported with the recommendation that he be confirmed.)

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Mr. KERRY):

S. 1785. A bill to establish in the Department of the Interior the Essex National Heritage Area Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. WELLSTONE:

S. 1786. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Health and Human Resources to carry out a demonstration project to provide the Department of Veterans Affairs with reimbursement from the medicare program for health care services provided to certain medicare-eligible veterans; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PRESSLER (for himself, Mr. D'AMATO, Mr. BREAUX, and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. 1787. A bill to amend the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States with respect to fireworks; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. FAIRCLOTH:

S. 1788. A bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act and the Railway Labor Act to repeal those provisions of Federal law that require employees to pay union dues or fees as a condition of employment, and for other purposes; read the first time.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. LOTT (for himself, Mr. THURMOND, Mr. NUNN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. COHEN, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. INHOPE, Mr. KEMPTHORNE, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. COATS, Mr. SMITH, Mr. EXON, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. BRADLEY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. BRYAN, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. SIMON, Mr. GRAHAM, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GLENN, Mr. REID, Mr. JOHNSTON, Mr. ROBB, Mr. INOUE, Mr. KOHL, Mr. FORD, Mr. KERREY, Mr. DODD, Mr. BUMPERS, Mr. PELL, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MOYNIHAN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mrs. BOXER, Mrs. MURRAY, and Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN):

S. Res. 255. A resolution to honor Admiral Jeremy M. "Mike" Boorda; considered and agreed to.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Mr. KERRY):